



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

July 8, 2013

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

2013 FOURTH OF JULY 24-HOUR ACTIVITY REPORT

This report includes a preliminary summary of firework-related emergency incidents, property loss, and the number of injuries that occurred on July 4, 2013. Also included is a summary of the community outreach efforts to mitigate the anticipated increase in emergency activity during the 2013 Fourth of July holiday.

FIREWORK-RELATED EMERGENCY ACTIVITY REPORT

The following firework-related emergency activity took place during the 24-hour period that began at 8:00 a.m. on July 4, 2013 and concluded at 8:00 a.m. on July 5, 2013. Below is a comparison to the data collected during the Fourth of July 24-hour period for the year 2012.

Number of Incidents	2012	2013
Structure Fires	0	0
Miscellaneous Fires	3	4
Grass/Brush Fires	2	4
Total	5	8

Dollar/Average Loss/Injuries	2012	2013
Structures/Contents	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous Property	\$4,525.00	\$10,700.00
Grass/Brush	.22 Acres	8.63 Acres
Injuries (Civilian)	0	0
Total	\$4,525.00	\$10,700.00

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS
ARTESIA
AZUSA
BALDWIN PARK
BELL
BELL GARDENS
BELLFLOWER
BRADBURY

CALABASAS
CARSON
CERRITOS
CLAREMONT
COMMERCE
COVINA
CUDAHY

DIAMOND BAR
DUARTE
EL MONTE
GARDENA
GLENDALE
HAWAIIAN GARDENS
HAWTHORNE

HIDDEN HILLS
HUNTINGTON PARK
INDUSTRY
INGLEWOOD
IRVINDALE
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA
LA PUENTE
LAKEWOOD
LANCASTER
LAWNDALE
LOMITA
LYNWOOD

MALIBU
MAYWOOD
NORWALK
PALMDALE
PALOS VERDES ESTATES
PARAMOUNT
PICO RIVERA

POMONA
RANCHO PALOS VERDES
ROLLING HILLS
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES
ROSEMEAD
SAN DIMAS
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL
SOUTH EL MONTE
SOUTH GATE
TEMPLE CITY
WALNUT
WEST HOLLYWOOD
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
WHITTIER

During the 24-hour reporting period, the Department's Fire Command and Control Facility (FCCF) received 1,966 calls, of which 1,122 required resources to be dispatched. The other calls were duplicate calls, non-injury calls, questions regarding illegal fireworks, and questions regarding cities allowing safe and sane fireworks. Call volume increased when compared to 2012. Last year, FCCF received 1,831 calls, of which, 1,067 calls required resources to be dispatched.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Special emphasis was placed on warning the public of the dangers associated with the use of fireworks. The public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks show instead of using private home-use fireworks. The following is a list of the campaign highlights for 2013:

- Conducted the 22nd Annual "Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest" with the theme of *Visit a Local Professional Fireworks Show*. All elementary schools within the County were invited to participate and over 500 posters were submitted.
- A press conference was held on June 21, 2013, to announce and award prizes to the winners of the "Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest." The public was also encouraged to attend a professional fireworks show. Representatives from our Department, the Los Angeles Fire Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Grossman Burn Center, and the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department were in attendance. The City of Los Angeles Police Department was also on hand to discuss the dangers of both legal and illegal fireworks.
- Conducted numerous interviews with local and national newspapers, radio, and television stations regarding the potential dangers of fireworks.
- Placed in operation the Professional Fireworks Show Directory Hotline at (888) 654-FIRE to provide information in both English and Spanish on the locations of professional fireworks shows.
- The Public Affairs Unit posted public safety information and videos on the website at www.fire.lacounty.gov to emphasize the cities that allowed "safe and sane" fireworks as well as the cities not permitting fireworks. The website included a list of all professional fireworks shows in the County and advised that fireworks are not permitted in unincorporated County areas. We also promoted the www.safejuly4th.org website in this section.
- Provided fireworks safety information to all fire stations for distribution to the public.
- Reviewed and approved the permits and provided fire safety officer oversight for thirty-eight (38) public fireworks displays.
- Staffed the Facilities Communications Center with Fire Prevention personnel to support the fireworks enforcement and confiscation activity of fire units and police agencies.

- Partnered with law enforcement agencies throughout the County. An estimated 20,000 copies of flyers and posters were printed for all County fire stations to promote a safe and sane Fourth of July holiday.

CONCLUSION

The reported fires caused by fireworks were a result of two (2) illegal fireworks, four (4) undetermined fireworks, and two (2) safe and sane fireworks, an increase by three (3) from the previous year. The dollar loss increased from \$4,525 in 2012 to \$10,700 in 2013. Fortunately, there were no civilian reported injuries caused by fireworks this year. The Department will be compiling a more comprehensive report that covers a 30-day reporting period from June 17, 2013 to July 17, 2013. This 30-day report is a more accurate reflection of actual trends in firework-related incidents than the 24-hour figures contained in this report. The 30-day report will be submitted in August 2013.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 881-6180 or your staff may contact Acting Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Grzywa, Fire Prevention Division, at (323) 890-4144.

DLO:yh

c: William T Fujioka
Brence Culp
Georgia Mattera
Sergio Vasquez
Jorge Morales
Randi Tahara
Joseph Charney
Susan Nissman
Rick Velasquez
Sussy Nemer